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NEW YORK CITY NO. 1 FREE DAILY IN THE US

Thursday, March 10, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNew

I KNOW WE'RE COOL

No baby drama for Gwen Stefani. 16

NYC fur babies mix and mingle. 2

Live music brings the craic to Irish pubs. 20



WELCOME, MATT



The Jets signed running back Matt Forte and the Giants spent like drunken sailors on a wild first day of NFL free agency. 24-25

GETTY IMAGES

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

PENTAGON SPY DRONES SOMETIMES FLOWN OVER U.S.: USA TODAY

The Pentagon has deployed drones several times over U.S. territory on non-military spy missions, but the flights have been rare and lawful, according to a Defense Department report obtained by USA Today under the Freedom of Information Act. The report, by the Defense Department inspector general, said the Pentagon had flown drones over U.S. territory fewer than 20 times between 2006 and 2015, always in compliance with existing U.S. law, USA Today reported Wednesday. Use of aerial surveillance drones over the United States became public in 2013 when then FBI Director Robert Mueller testified before Congress that the bureau employed spy drones during investigations on rare occasions, USA Today said. **REUTERS**



CLINTON: IRAN SHOULD FACE SANCTIONS FOR REPORTED MISSILE TESTS

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton said Wednesday she was “deeply concerned” by reports that Iran had tested multiple ballistic missiles and said the country should face sanctions for its actions. “This demonstrates once again why we need to address Iran’s destabilizing activities across the region, while vigorously enforcing the nuclear deal,” Clinton said in a statement. “Iran should face sanctions for these activities and the international community must demonstrate that Iran’s threats toward Israel will not be tolerated,” she said. Iran test-fired two ballistic missiles earlier Wednesday that it said were designed to be able to hit Israel, in defiance of U.S. criticism of similar tests carried out Tuesday. **REUTERS**

CLOSED MASSACHUSETTS CHIPOTLE EMPLOYEE HAS NOROVIRUS: OFFICIAL

The suburban Boston Chipotle restaurant that closed Tuesday was hit by norovirus, with one employee confirmed ill and two more suspected with the virus, the top health official of the town of Billerica said. The cleaned restaurant was scheduled to reopen Thursday, Billerica Public Health Director Richard Berube told reporters, adding that employees suspected of having the virus did not come to work Wednesday. “They called in sick so that was very fortunate,” he said outside the closed restaurant. Chipotle is trying to repair its reputation after a series of food-safety incidents. **REUTERS**



Olly the dog enjoys a Chase & Papi's Yappy Hour. **ALL PHOTOS SB LIEBS PHOTOGRAPHY**

Pets, owners can now enjoy ‘yappy hours’

Chase & Papi’s next event will be a Brooklyn “doga” session where owners will be able to do yoga with their dogs.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Instead of leaving Fido at home on the weekend, one company is looking to give New York City pet owners the chance to bond with their dogs at one-of-a-kind events throughout the city.

Since starting last year, Chase & Papi — a luxury pet concierge — has been creating pet-friendly events for owners to have fun and mingle, while also spending time with their four-legged family members.

“A lot of people feel guilty about leaving their dogs during the week but at the same time they want to socialize on the weekends,” said owner Desh Valcin.

Chase & Papi — named after Valcin’s two rescue dogs — started off just offering dog-walking and pet-sitting services to clients.

Then as the company went to client’s homes at luxury apartment buildings, they began offering “yappy hours” at the lobby of the buildings, which were cocktail hours for owners and their pets.

Valcin said pet owners were glad to be able to have that time to socialize with their pets by their side and added that many were

unaware that they were limited in their own buildings as to where they could take their pets.

“It’s a feeling of not being able to share your home and space with your dog,” she said.

Chase & Papi began creating other events, which are open to the public, that give New Yorkers the opportunity to mingle with their pets. Such themed-events include “Havana Pawty,” “Barkclays Night,” an ugly sweater and Halloween party.

Although the company is based out of Long Island, it caters to clients

throughout the five boroughs and holds events across the city.

Each event includes a dog buffet, drinks for owners, and a photo booth for the pooches. Valcin added that event planner Lavinia Gims makes sure every detail of each occasion is unique in its own way.

“Every event that we do we try to make sure there is a bonding experience,” she said.

Dog trainers are also on hand during each event to make sure there are no aggressive dogs, as all the dogs are allowed to roam off their leashes.

Portions of the proceeds are also donated to local animal shelters in the area each event is held and customized portraits are also sold, with some of the money also going back to the shelters.

“It’s more like a party and get-together and that’s the feeling I like to have for all my events, that it’s catered to the dog but also the people,” Val-

cin said. “It’s really about bonding with your dog. It’s about giving your dog something to do other than just taking a walk.”

Chase & Papi’s next event will be a doga session on March 26 at Sugarlift, located at 200 Morgan Avenue in Brooklyn. Dog owners will be able to enjoy a yoga class — including a massage, stretching and meditation — with poses accommodated for dogs of all ages and sizes.

After the 40-minute session, dog owners and their pets are invited to the rooftop to mingle and enjoy some drinks.

Twenty percent of all doga proceeds will go to the Brooklyn Animal Resource Coalition.

“It’s a partnership, and I think that’s what people think about doga. We don’t want your dog to run around while you are doing yoga, it might happen, but our teacher has really been using a technique that incorporates your dog with every move,” Valcin said.

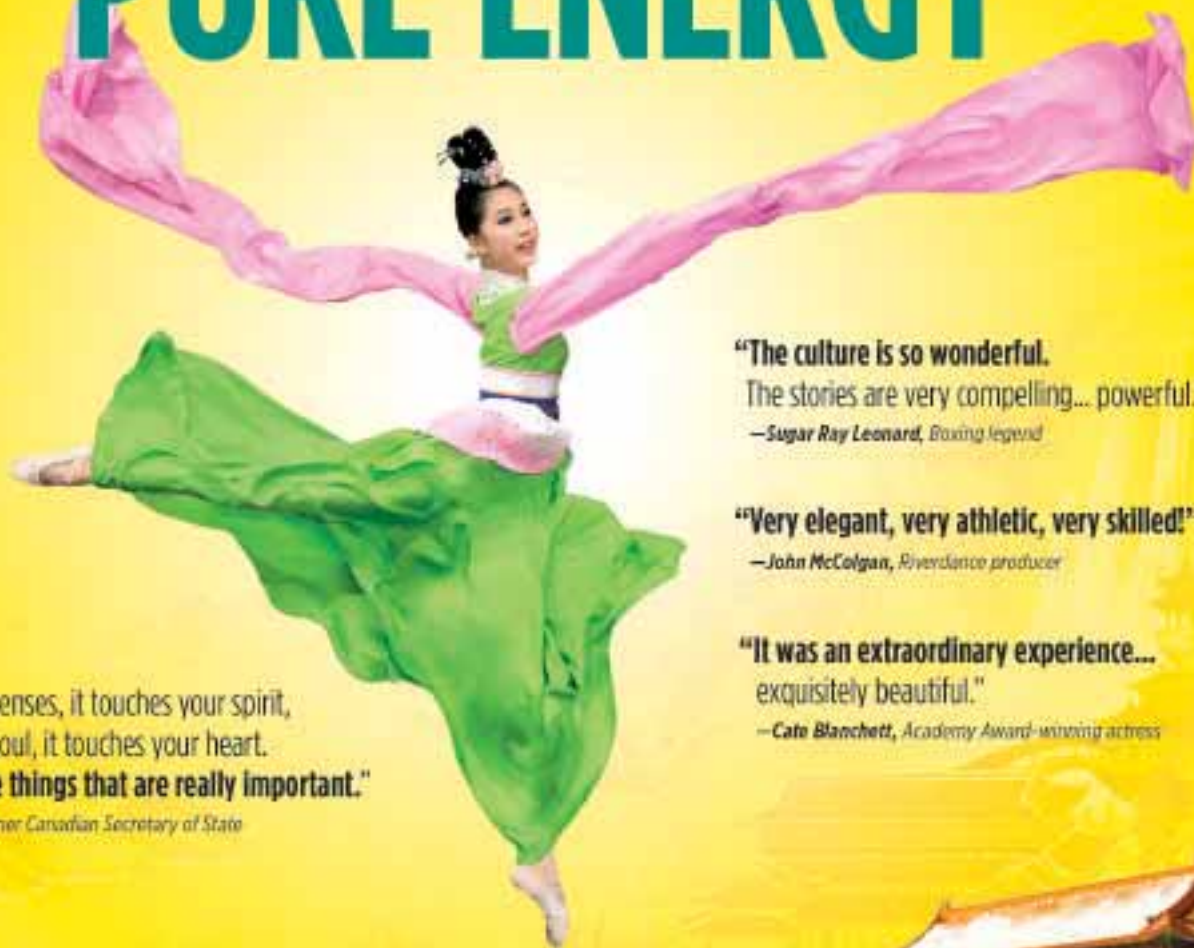
Currently Chase & Papi offers monthly events, along with their dog-walking and pet-sitting services, but as the company grows plans are to host events about twice a month.



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Number of Manhattan rentals decline, as move-in incentives continue to grow

Last month saw the highest concession percentage since July 2010.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
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Landlords in Manhattan are going above and beyond to bring renters to the borough, reaching the highest percentage of move-in incentives in over five years, according to a recent report.

Real estate brokerage Citi Habitats released on Thursday its Manhattan rental market analysis for February of this year.

Based on the report, rents in Manhattan have in large remained the same while the borough's vacancy rate dropped to a level which, according to Citi Habitats, was not seen since last September.

The broker added that the decrease in the borough's vacancy rate was due in large part to a large increase in landlords using incentives to get people to move in, while also keeping their rents high.

"Many landlords have relied upon incentives to keep their face rents high," said Gary



GETTY IMAGES

Malin, president of Citi Habitats. "These concessions have, in large part, stabilized the recent rent declines and climbing vacancy rates. However, their prevalence is indicative of a Manhattan rental market that is still out of touch — and beyond the reach of many tenants."

Citi Habitats noted that a total of 25 percent of rental transactions it had brokered offered prospective tenants a

free month's rent and/or payment of the broker fee as ways to hook people into renting.

Compared to last February, which saw 12 percent of leases offering move-in incentives, this February had the highest concession percentage since July 2010 — which reached 25 percent.

According to the report, in February 2016 the average Manhattan apartment was

rented for \$3,482 — \$7 more than the previous month — and compared to last February, the average rent was \$40 more this year.

Compared to last year, rents for one-bedroom homes went up by 5 percent, studio and three-bedroom apartments went up 2 percent, and two-bedroom apartments went up 1 percent.

The most expensive neighborhoods in

Manhattan for February were SoHo/Tribeca, with a median rent of \$5,995; and Chelsea with a median rent of \$4,395.

The least expensive neighborhoods were Harlem and Washington Heights, with both holding a median rent of \$2,500.

This February, Manhattan's vacancy rate fell to 1.74 percent — down from January's rate of 1.90 percent and

marking the lowest vacancy rate for the borough since last September's 1.62 percent.

The neighborhoods with the least inventory of rental apartments were Gramercy with a vacancy rate of 0.87 percent, followed by SoHo/TriBeCa with a rate of 1.06 percent.

Manhattan's East Village had the highest vacancy rate, with 2.25 percent of rental units being vacant.

NYC to see record-breaking 59.7 million visitors in 2016



Times Square FLICKR/MSSARAKELY

Together with this week's warm weather, New York City is expected to break even more records as the year rolls by.

NYC & Company announced Wednesday morning that in 2016 the city is expected to have about 59.7 million visitors — 47 million domestic and 12.7 million international.

This projection would make it the seventh consecutive year that the city reaches record-breaking numbers in tourism.

"New York City is experiencing an exciting moment in its history, with unprecedented developments and open-

ings debuting across the five boroughs this year and beyond," said Fred Dixon, NYC & Company president and CEO.

During the announcement, which was made at the travel trade show ITB Berlin, Dixon pointed out the substantial developments across the five boroughs including hotels, attractions, infrastructure investments, retailers and more.

According to NYC

& Company, New York City had the country's most active hotel development, with 107,000 hotel rooms this year and a total of over 133,000 rooms expected by the end of 2019.

The organization also pointed out recent transportation developments such as the opening of the 34 Street-Hudson Yards subway station, the World Trade Center Transportation Hub

Oculus and others.

"Every corner of New York City is full of diverse cultures, art, entertainment and performing arts," Mayor Bill de Blasio said. "It is not surprising — but still exciting — to know that 2016 will be yet another record-breaking year for tourism. I thank the businesses, artists and all New Yorkers who continue to make our city an attractive place for people around the world to continue visiting."

Last year the city welcomed a total of 58.3 million visitors, made up of 46 million domestic and 12.3 million international visitors. ANGY ALTAMIRANO

59.7M

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NY-based maker of instrument accessories starts first string-recycling program

D'Addario & Company is a family owned and operated business dating back to the 1600s.



SAM NEWHOUSE
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The world's largest maker of instrument strings and accessories is showing that a small act can make a huge change in the world.

D'Addario & Company is a family-owned and operated business that has been making strings for instruments since the 1600s starting off in Italy and then making their way to New York City.

The family settled in Astoria and started making strings out of their garage and as the years went by continued to provide strings for instruments and in the 1950s even played an essential role in popularizing electric strings.

In 1970, Jim D'Addario — who is currently still the CEO of the company — launched D'Addario & Company, operating a facility in Farmingdale, Long Island, and also operating an office in Brooklyn.

The company contin-



Jim D'Addario, CEO of D'Addario & Company ALL PHOTOS D'ADDARIO

ues to create strings for instruments but now also makes other accessories for other kinds of instruments such as drum sticks, reeds for saxophones and clarinets, and much more.

"Our brand purpose is to inspire performance and we kind of live that mantra in providing products for musicians to raise their level of performance," D'Addario said.

Now, the company has launched the first-ever instrument string recycling program called Playback in partnership with the company TerraCycle — which collects and repur-

poses hard-to-recycle products such as chip bags and cigarette butts.

D'Addario added that the new recycling program is a continuation of the company's commitment to being an environmental leader in the music industry. Since the 1990s the company has seen a 75 percent reduction in packaging waste.

"It goes back to one of our core values," D'Addario said. "I'm very excited about it because it's something I really wanted to see years and years ago and it wasn't really possible."



Through the recycling program, individuals will be able to give in their old strings and TerraCycle will then go through the proper methods of recycling the string.

According to Brian Vance, senior product manager at D'Addario & Company, currently municipal recycling companies do not accept instrument strings because of all the materials that make up the strings such as copper, alloy, nickel, steel and more.

"It can be complicated, even though a string seems kind of simple,"

Vance said. "It's a lot of work and effort to separate those metals."

TerraCycle will work to find economically viable ways to recycle the material, and Vance added that D'Addario is also in talks with TerraCycle to see if the material can be turned into products that can be used by musicians.

In order for someone to participate, all they must do is sign up for an account on the Playback program website, download a shipping label, save up as many strings as they can, box them up and ship them with no charge.

"We really don't know how many strings are out there. It could be about a billions pounds of string that could be put into landfill out there," Vance said. "It's scary."

Whoever recycles the strings can then decide to sign up for a loyalty product, which will trade them new strings or other gear for the old strings; or take credit gained from recycling the strings and donate them to the nonprofit D'Addario Foundation.

To celebrate the launch of the Playback program together with International Guitar Month and Earth Day, in April D'Addario is sponsoring 40 Recycle and Restring events around the country.

During the events — which are free and open to the public — musicians are asked to bring in their old string to participating shops to have them recycled and in return have new strings put onto their instruments.

In New York City, one of the participating stores is Brooklyn's Main Drag Music, located at 330 Wythe Avenue.

Specific dates for each dealer is expected to be announced soon.

BRIEFS

Teen stabbed at Brooklyn subway station

Service on the J train in Brooklyn was suspended after a teen was stabbed Wednesday afternoon, according to reports.

Northbound service was suspended on the J line between Crescent Street and Broadway-Junction after the MTA said there was a police investigation on the platform of the Crescent Street station, NY1 reported.

The FDNY said it got a call of a stabbing shortly before 4:30 p.m., according to NBC New York.

A woman who was allegedly waiting on the elevated subway platform posted on her Facebook that she saw a group of teens rush to the front of the platform and when the crowd moved back a teen was stabbed on the floor, NBC reported.

According to ABC, police said a 22-year-old man was assaulted on the platform. He was taken to Jamaica Hospital and was expected to survive.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO

NYC hits record-high March temperatures



New Yorkers enjoyed Wednesday's sunshine. GETTY IMAGES

Spring arrived more than a week early in the Big Apple on Wednesday with temperatures in the high 70s — and we're not complaining.

According to the National Weather Service, Central Park reached a high of 77 degrees by about 2 p.m. beating the March 9 record in 2000 of 69 degrees.

A spokesman for the agency said that the city could "come close" to breaking records on Thursday as well, with temperatures forecast

to reach 72 degrees but with a slight chance of rain.

Records were also hit beyond Manhattan, with LaGuardia Airport seeing a high of 75; Islip reaching 68 degrees; and Newark, New Jersey, hitting 81 degrees.

After Thursday, temperatures are expected to stay in the low 60s throughout the weekend with a high of 63 degrees on Friday, 60 degrees on Saturday and 58 degrees on Sunday. ANGY ALTAMIRANO

77

CENTRAL PARK HIGH
WEDNESDAY

69

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BRIEFS

Queens pipe attack victim dies, suspect at large

A man beaten with a metal pipe on Saturday has died, and police are now searching for a second suspect connected to his homicide.

Shortly before 2 a.m. on Saturday, Martin Quiej, 34, was found by police in Woodside on the ground near the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and 54th Street with head wounds, authorities stated. He died

Tuesday from his injuries.

Quiej had been fighting on the street with two suspects when the men struck him repeatedly with a metal pipe, the New York Daily News reported.

Police said that they arrested Victor Mendoza, 21, shortly after the incident, but officials are still searching for the second suspect, who fled on foot near the corner of Skillman Avenue and

53rd Street.

Now that Quiej, who was left with no brain stem function, has died, charges against Mendoza are expected to be upgraded, ABC reported. Mendoza was originally charged with attempted murder.

The suspect who fled on foot was described by police as a Hispanic man last seen wearing blue jeans, black shoes and a gray jacket. JASON NUCKOLLS



It's almost time to vote. CHRISTOPHER COLLINS/FICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

When are the presidential primaries in New York?

New Yorkers still have time to register before the primary.

CRISTABELLE TUMOLA
@CristabelleT
cristabelle.tumola@metro.us

New York is no Iowa — or New Hampshire or South Carolina, for that matter — but its delegates still count.

The state is scheduled to hold its presidential primary for both the Republican and Democratic parties next month.

Voters can head to the polls starting from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19 in all of New York City, and the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Putnam and Erie. In all other counties, polls open at 12 p.m. and close at 9 p.m.

To find your nearest polling location in New York City, visit vote.nyc.ny.us.

New York's primary is closed, meaning that voters who are registered to the party holding the primary can only vote in that one. But no fear, there is still time to register before the March 25 deadline.

According to this guide from the governor's office, potential voters can register to vote using the automated online system, MyDMV:

Following a few simple steps, New Yorkers can easily sign up for a secure MyDMV account and register to vote or ac-

To register to vote, a New Yorker must:

- Be a United States citizen.
- Be 18 years old by Dec. 31 of the year in which you submit the form (note: you must be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you want to vote).
- Live at your present address at least 30 days before an election.
- Not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction.
- Not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court.
- Not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

cess a variety of other services like updating party enrollment or a home address. To create an account, individuals must use their New York State driver license, permit or non-driver ID, last four digits of their Social Security number, and the ZIP code currently listed on their driver license, permit or non-driver ID record. Upon completion, DMV sends the voter registration applications to the County Board of Elections for action. New Yorkers can use the New York State Board of Elections' website to check their voter registration status.

For more ways to register, visit Elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html.

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FBI penetrated Russian spy ring using hidden recorders



The FBI used binders to hide recording devices. GETTY IMAGES

The FBI eavesdropped on meetings involving Russian intelligence personnel in New York City, including a suspected spy posing as a trade representative, by hiding recorders in binders containing supposedly confidential information about the energy sector, prosecutors said.

The hours of covert recordings from 2013 were disclosed in papers filed in Manhattan federal court on Tuesday in the case of Evgeny Buryakov, a Russian citizen who federal prosecutors say posed as a banker while participating in a Cold War-style spy ring.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's eavesdrops enabled the agency to penetrate the workplaces of Russia's foreign intelligence service, the SVR, and hear about Buryakov's work for it, prosecutors said.

They also captured one Russian agent, also charged in the case, complaining about the lack of excitement in his job, saying he expected it "would be just slightly more down to earth than in the movies about James Bond."

The disclosure came ahead of an April 4 trial for Buryakov, who was arrested in January 2015 as prosecutors unveiled charges against him and the two other Russians, Igor Sporyshev and Victor Podobny.

Prosecutors say the trio conspired to gather economic intelligence for Russia, including information about U.S. sanctions against the country, and to recruit intelligence sources in New York City.

Neither Sporyshev and

Podobny, who made the James Bond comment, were arrested, as they enjoyed diplomatic immunity in their respective roles as a Russian trade representative and an attaché to the country's mission to the United Nations.

Buryakov, who worked at Russian state-owned Vnesheconombank, has pleaded not guilty. Neither his lawyer nor the Russian consulate responded immediately to requests for comment.

According to prosecutors, in April 2012, Sporyshev met an undercover FBI employee posing as an analyst at a New York energy firm at an oil and gas industry conference.

Over the next two years, they met to discuss the industry and other economic and political issues, prosecutors said, with Sporyshev providing gifts and cash for information.

In 2013, the FBI employee began providing Sporyshev with the binders containing purported industry analysis he wrote, supporting documents and "covertly placed recording devices," prosecutors wrote.

As the undercover employee said his company would fire him if it learned he disclosed confidential information, Sporyshev would promptly return the binders after reviewing them, prosecutors said.

The recordings that resulted captured statements of Sporyshev, Podobny and other Russian intelligence personnel from January to May 2013, prosecutors said. REUTERS

BRIEF

CDC director calls Zika virus in Puerto Rico a 'challenge and crisis'

During a tour of Zika preparations in Puerto Rico, Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, called Zika a "tremendous challenge and crisis" and said protecting pregnant women from the virus is a top priority.

In Brazil, Zika has been linked to a spike in cases of

microcephaly, a birth defect marked by small head size and underdeveloped brains.

"Until a few months ago, no one had any idea that Zika could cause birth defects," Frieden told reporters Tuesday at a briefing in Puerto Rico's health department.

Frieden has been working with CDC staff and the Puerto Rican government on strategies to protect pregnant from becoming infected with the

mosquito-borne virus, which Frieden called a top priority.

In Puerto Rico, the Aedes aegypti mosquito that carries Zika is widespread, and Frieden said controlling it will require a multi-pronged approach involving government, municipalities, neighbors, families and society at large.

Cases of Zika are doubling weekly in Puerto Rico, and the CDC expects hundreds of thousands of individuals will

become infected, including thousands of pregnant women.

To protect pregnant women, Frieden recommended using insect repellent daily and reliably.

He also suggested adding window screens and air conditioning, where possible. And he called for reducing standing water in and around homes to eliminate mosquito breeding habitats.

REUTERS

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RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Republicans sue State Dept. for Clinton emails

Hillary Clinton has faced questions about her emails since it emerged a year ago that she used a private email account and a private server while she was secretary of state.



Hillary Clinton GETTY IMAGES

The Republican National Committee filed two lawsuits on Wednesday seeking to obtain emails related to Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's tenure as U.S. secretary of state.

Clinton has apologized for the email arrangement, which is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but has said she did nothing wrong and believes the government will vindicate her.

The RNC said it filed the lawsuits after the State Department failed to respond in a timely manner to a Freedom of Information Act request submitted in December. It sought the information to ensure the public has information to decide if Clinton is "fit to serve" as president, the RNC said in a statement.

The first lawsuit seeks emails, BlackBerry Messenger or text messages between then-Secretary of State Clinton and several key senior aides, including her chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, and director of poli-

cy planning, Jake Sullivan.

The second lawsuit seeks emails and other electronic exchanges between nearly a dozen State Department officials and any Clinton associate using one of more than a dozen different Internet domain names. It covers the period between Feb. 1, 2013, when Clinton left the job, and Dec. 4, 2015.

The request includes any emails to the State Department officials from Clinton's campaign website, HillaryClinton.com, or the website of former President Bill Clinton's foundation, ClintonFoundation.org.

The suit also targets emails from domains like MediaMatters.org, a liberal nonprofit group that seeks to counter what it believes is misleading conservative information in the U.S. media. REUTERS

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Tuesday, March 8th 2016, was one of the most exciting and remarkable nights for Taiwanese musicians in the greater New York area; the opening of 'From Taiwan to New York City' concert series - 'Bridging Time and Space' presented by New York Taipei Economic and Cultural Office and TWNY Music took place at Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York (1 E. 42nd St. New York, NY 10017).

'From Taiwan to New York City' concert series features eight concerts with different style of music showcasing the talent of musicians from Taiwan, bringing the voice of Taiwan to the public, and providing the opportunities for Taiwanese musicians to get involved in local and global musician communities.

'Bridging Time and Space' featured pieces from Johann Sebastian Bach and well-known Taiwanese composers, Dr. Wen-Pin Hope Lee and Tyzen Hsiao. The concert was conducted by twelve musicians including Taiwanese and local musicians. To show the support and encouragement for the youngsters, Dr. Lee wrote a Taiwanese culture inspired song 'The Spring Equinox' for this event.

'The Spring Equinox' also showed the most sincere wishes from Dr. Lee to the next generation Taiwanese musicians to shine on the global stage with their proud Taiwanese roots.

TWNY Music also dedicated this event to the victims of the violent earthquake that struck Southern Taiwan (Tainan) in February and sent our love and support for those suffering and best wishes for a speedy recovery for those wounded.

To find more information on the 'From Taiwan to New York City' concert series, please reference TWNY Music website.



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Clinton's surprise loss exposes risks for her on trade

Hillary Clinton's unexpected defeat in Michigan has laid bare growing voter anger over international trade, raising warning flags for her ahead of a possible presidential election showdown against Republican front-runner Donald Trump.

Trump has built his campaign on pledges to scrap international trade deals and do more to protect American workers from foreign competition, tapping the same groundswell of discontent that propelled Clinton's rival Bernie Sanders to victory in the Midwestern state on Tuesday.

Clinton remains heavily favored to win the Democratic nomination. But the setback in Michigan could signal further troubles in upcoming primaries in other Rust Belt states such as Ohio, forcing her further to the



Bernie Sanders GETTY IMAGES

left on economic issues and possibly influencing her choice for an eventual running mate, strategists said.

The backlash against 20 years of trade liberalization has stalled the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), a sweeping Pacific trade deal backed by President Barack Obama and threatens to stymie the trade agenda for years to come. REUTERS

BRIEFS

Former Republican rival Fiorina backs Cruz's White House bid

Former Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina on Wednesday threw her support behind Ted Cruz, saying the senator from Texas was the only candidate left who could topple front-runner Donald Trump and take the White House from Democrats.

"The only guy who can beat Donald Trump is Ted Cruz," Fiorina said at a rally for Cruz in Miami.

REUTERS

Chicago Tribune endorses Rubio in 2016 Republican presidential race

The Chicago Tribune endorsed Sen. Marco Rubio in the 2016 Republican presidential race on Wednesday, a week before Illinois' winner-take-all presidential primary.

The newspaper of the state's leading city credited Rubio's embrace of spending limits, a line-item veto and a balanced budget amendment. "Crucially, his foreign affairs expertise vastly exceeds that of his rivals," it said.

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US Air Force veteran convicted of attempting to join Islamic State

Tairod Pugh, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was found guilty Wednesday of attempting to join Islamic State, according to his lawyer.



Pugh U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE/HANDOUT

The conviction marks the first case in more than 75 Islamic State-related prosecutions brought since 2014 by the U.S. Department of Justice to reach a jury verdict.

After a weeklong trial in Brooklyn federal court, a jury found Pugh, 48, guilty of attempting to provide material support to a designated terrorist organization, and obstruction for destroying four portable electronic storage devices after his detention in Turkey.

"Of course, we are disappointed with the verdict as we put in great effort to defend the case, but the jury appeared

to be fair and genuinely concerned about reaching the correct verdict as they saw it," Pugh's lawyer Eric Creizman said.

Pugh will be sentenced in September, Creizman said.

Prosecutors said Pugh immersed himself in violent Islamic State propaganda for months before buying a one-way flight from his home in Egypt to Turkey, where he hoped to cross the Syrian border into territory controlled by the extremist group.

He was detained by Turkish authorities at an Istanbul airport and eventually flown to the United States to face terrorism charges.

Pugh's defense lawyers argued that his only offense was to express "repugnant" views about Islamic State in Facebook posts and to watch dozens of the group's slickly produced recruitment videos. They said he traveled to Turkey to find work, not to become a jihadist.

But prosecutors pointed to a letter he drafted to his Egyptian wife, found on his laptop, in which he vowed to fight for Islam and declared he had two options: "Victory or Martyr." The letter was written days before he flew to Turkey, though it was unclear whether he ever sent it. REUTERS

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

BARBARA HANDSCHU, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

T.S. Civ. 2203 (CSH)

-against-
SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION, et al.,
Defendants.

BACKGROUND

In 1979, the Court certified a class in this civil rights action ("The Plaintiff Class") defined as follows:

"All individuals resident in the City of New York, and all other persons who are physically present in the City of New York, and all organizations located or operating in the City of New York, who engage in or have engaged in lawful political, religious, educational, or social activities and who, as a result of these activities have, been, are now or hereafter may be subjected to or threatened by infiltration, physical and verbal coercion, photographic, electronic and physical surveillance, provocation of violence, recruitment to act as police informants and dossier collection and dissemination by defendants and their agents."

In 1985, the Court approved a settlement of the action and entered a consent decree incorporating Guidelines governing the investigation of political activity by the New York City Police Department ("The Handschu Guidelines").

In 2003, the Court approved the motion of the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") for modifications to the Handschu Guidelines, and subsequently incorporated the modified guidelines governing investigation of political activity by the NYPD in the Consent Decree ("The Modified Handschu Guidelines").

In 2007, the Court ruled that counsel for the Plaintiff Class ("Class Counsel") are entitled to seek judicial relief when they can demonstrate that the NYPD systematically and repeatedly violated the Modified Handschu Guidelines to a degree sufficient to show an NYPD policy to act in such a fashion or when the NYPD adopts a policy that violates the Modified Handschu Guidelines.

On April 2, 2013, Class Counsel brought a Motion For Injunctive Relief and Appointment of a Monitor, alleging that the NYPD had a policy or practice that violated the Modified Handschu Guidelines in that the NYPD conducts investigations of individuals and organizations associated with the Muslim religion solely on the basis of religion, and without a factual predicate (the "Handschu Motion").

Defendants have denied the allegations in the Handschu Motion and have denied any and all liability arising out of the Handschu Motion.

Beginning in August 2014, the Parties in this action and the parties in *Raza, et al. v. City of NY, et al.*, 13 CV 3448 (PNC) (JD), an action filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, entered into a Joint Settlement Process under a strict confidentiality agreement.

The Joint Settlement Process has resulted in further modifications to the Modified Handschu Guidelines, which, if approved by the Court, will settle the claims in the Handschu Motion in the manner and upon the terms summarized and described below.

SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENT TERMS, INCLUDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MODIFIED HANDSCHU GUIDELINES

The full text of the proposed Modified Handschu Guidelines, showing the changes that are proposed, can be viewed at <http://www.nycu.org/HandschuSettlement>.

- Under the Amended Modified Handschu Guidelines, there will be an explicit commitment against investigations in which race, religion or ethnicity is a substantial or motivating factor.
- The Amended Modified Handschu Guidelines will require that the choice of investigative techniques should take account of the potential effect of the investigation on the political or religious activity of individuals, groups or organizations and the potential effect on persons who, although not a target of the investigation, are affected by or subject to the particular investigative techniques.
- The Amended Modified Handschu Guidelines will require that undercover police officers and confidential informants may be used when taking into account all of the circumstances of the investigation, including the need for the information and the seriousness of the threat, it has been determined that the information sought could not be reasonably obtained in a timely and effective way by a less intrusive means.
- Under the Amended Modified Handschu Guidelines, there will be presumptive time limits on investigations -- before there were none. In addition, each investigation will be reviewed every six months.
- The Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence will continue to make the final decision whether or not an investigation should be opened, continued, or closed, but the Amended Modified Handschu Guidelines will provide for the establishment of a Handschu Committee, thereby institutionalizing and formalizing an existing collaborative decision-making process involving many NYPD participants with regard to opening, continuing and closing investigations.
- The Amended Modified Handschu Guidelines will add to the Handschu Committee a civilian representative, unaffiliated with the Police Department, as a full participant in the collaborative process with regard to the initiation, continuation and closing of investigations.
- The civilian representative of the Handschu Committee will be endowed with the power and obligation to monitor compliance with the opening or extension of investigations under the Modified Handschu Guidelines. If the rules are being violated, the civilian representative will be required to record his or her objection in the minutes of the Handschu Committee. The civilian representative will be required to contact the Police Commissioner and to secure from the Commissioner a review of the opening or extension of an investigation for compliance with the Modified Handschu Guidelines. In addition, in the event that the civilian representative concludes that the NYPD is violating the Modified Handschu Guidelines as a matter of policy, he or she will be required to notify the Handschu Court of the violation policies and, with notice to class counsel, to seek judicial intervention.
- In addition to these changes to the Modified Handschu Guidelines, the NYPD will remove from its website the report entitled *Radicalization in the West*.
- If the settlement is approved by the Court, the City of New York has agreed to pay Plaintiff Class Counsel the sum of \$305,730.26 in full satisfaction of all claims for costs, expenses and attorneys' fees in connection with the Handschu Motion.

THE SETTLEMENT HEARING

- Before the settlement can become final, it must be approved by the Court. Any affected person or organization may comment for or against the proposed settlement.
- In order to give class members an opportunity to express their comments in support or objection to the settlement, a hearing will be held before the Hon. Charles S. Haight, Jr., at the courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007 on **April 25, 2016** at 10 a.m.
- If you wish to comment for or against the settlement, you must register to comment by sending an email with your name and address to handschu.settlement@nycu.org or by sending a letter with your name and address to Handschu Settlement, Clerk's Office, US District Court, 500 Pearl Street, NY, NY 10007. All emails and letters must be sent or postmarked on or before **April 5, 2016**. You may include the substance of your comment or objection in the email or the letter, but you are not required to do so. **Objections or comments will not be considered by the court unless you have given notice by email or by US Mail that you want to comment or object.** You may present your comments yourself or you may have an attorney present them for you. You are invited to attend the hearing whether or not you have given notice that you want to comment on the settlement.
- This settlement, if approved by the Court, will be a full and final adjudication of the issues raised on behalf of the plaintiff class in the Handschu Motion and of any and all claims of violation of the Modified Handschu Guidelines that were known to plaintiff class counsel on January 7, 2016.

Dated: New York, N.Y.
February 10, 2016

/s/ Charles S. Haight, Jr.
Hon. Charles S. Haight, Jr.
Senior United States District Judge

¹ The complaint in *Raza* alleged that Defendants have violated, and continue to violate the First and Fourteenth Amendment rights of the *Raza* plaintiffs in that the NYPD's Intelligence Bureau has a policy or practice of investigating individuals and conducting surveillance unlawfully on the basis of religion. Defendants have denied the allegations in the *Raza* complaint.

² The civilian representative is appointed for a five-year term and continues thereafter unless the position is abolished or modified by the Mayor. If the Mayor chooses to abolish this position, Class Counsel must be given 90 days advance notice. The plaintiff class will thus have an opportunity to mobilize popular opposition to the elimination of the civilian representative, if it should ever be proposed.

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Gwen Stefani ignoring all that pregnant nanny nonsense



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Hey, has all the lovey-dovey news about Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton helped you forget about her whole divorce thing with Gavin Rossdale? Because it's sure helped her. Even though news broke this week that the couple's former nanny, Mindy Mann, is pregnant, Stefani simply isn't bothered. "Gwen is not worried about her former nanny right now. She is busy doing other

things," a source tells Hollywood Life. "Gwen is a mother herself and deals with her day-to-day happenings with her kids. She is in a new relationship and getting over her past relationship [and] focusing on career goals. The last thing on her mind is Mindy. She obviously doesn't want anything bad to happen to her. She doesn't harp on every move Mindy is making."

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Robert Downey Jr.'s son is off the hook



This is something of a second-generation Hollywood rite of passage: getting your

first felony drug charge dismissed. And that's exactly the milestone Indio Downey, 22-year-old son of "Avengers" star Robert Downey Jr., is celebrating this week. Downey the Younger had his cocaine possession case — stemming from a 2014 arrest — dismissed after he submitted proof he'd com-

pleted a rehab program. "I am truly grateful for the experience I had over the last 20 months in recovery," Indio told the judge, according to TMZ. "I'm so blessed to have my life back. I hope to be an inspiration to work with others in the future." With this dismissal, Indio's record is wiped clean.

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J.J. Abrams is sorry about that 'Force Awakens' hug

So there's this scene at the end of "Star Wars: the Force Awakens" that rubbed a lot of fans the wrong way, and director J.J. Abrams is really sorry about it. He swears it was a mistake. See, after ... something ... happens in the movie (ask your friends), General Leia (Carrie Fisher) meets new series hero Rey (Daisy Ridley) for the first time and gives her

a big hug. Which is fine, except she walks right past Chewbacca to do it. What? Does she still think of the Wookiee as nothing more than a walking carpet? "That was probably one of the mistakes I made in that. My thinking at the time was that Chewbacca, despite the pain he was feeling, was focused on trying to save Finn [John Boyega]

and getting him taken care of," Abrams tells Slashfilm. I don't know, I think she's still just kind of snooty toward Wookiees. Remember in the first movie when she handed out those medals at the end but didn't give one to Chewbacca? It's a pattern of behavior, man.



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Sarah Bolger goes to the dark side

The very personable Irish actress gets to play a monster in the new indie "Emelie."



MATT PRIGGE
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Sarah Bolger is so busy that she never gets back to her home in Dublin.

"I have a dog, a poor dog. It stays with my family," the actress tells us, laughing. The dog, a she, is a rescue, which accounts for her name, which was not Bolger's choice. "Don't judge me: Her name is Fluffbucket."

Bolger is really personable, giggling at everything, which stands in stark, amusing contrast to her new movie.

In the indie thriller "Emelie," she's the title character: a mysterious young woman hired as a last-minute babysitter for three young kids. Once the parents have left for their date night, Emelie starts gradually reveals someone with more nefarious, often truly screwed-up intentions.

"That was the sick, twisted part of myself that wanted to do it so badly," Bolger confesses. "I just loved this girl. I read the script and was like, 'What the f— is she doing? What's her deal?' I couldn't understand. She is broken. A glass has smashed inside herself."

Going to such places can't be easy over an entire shoot. "It messed with my head a little bit," she



Sarah Bolger plays an evil babysitter in "Emelie," out now in theaters and video on demand. **DARK SKY FILMS**

admits. "I'd go back to my hotel room in this isolated town we were filming in. I would have to sit down at night and wrote a diary — for lack of a better word — breaking down what she went through for the scenes every day."

Bolger was a child actress who broke through with 2003's "In America," in which she starred alongside her real-life sister, Emma, as sisters who emigrated with their parents (Samantha Morton and Paddy Considine) to New York in the 1980s.

Here, she got to act with a new generation of child actors.

"These kids were so professional! I don't know if I was that prepared at their age," she says.

Director Michael Thelin actually kept her mostly separate from the kids. "He didn't want them to feel too comfortable around me, like I was their friend," she recalls. "I would go back to my trailer, alone, go on set, not talking to anyone, then go back to my hotel room and write in this poor girl's diary. It was a lonely month and a half."

It was demonstrably different from making "In America" a decade-plus ago. For that film she and her sister lived in director Jim Sheridan's house for a month prior to filming.

Bolger is one of countless child actors who continued acting into adulthood. She's now 25, though she admits she still looks young, mean-

ing she still gets high school and college roles. (She was the latter in last year's football movie "My All-American.")

"It'd be fun to play someone who's a woman," Bolger says. "College roles are wonderful, but to have the voice of a woman, it's a goal for me in life and onstage. I have to become a woman now."

She's at least been getting more mature roles, with stints on TV like "Into the Badlands" and "Agent Carter," one of Marvel's many shows.

"When I got the job, I got a Marvel.com email saying, 'Sign your [nondisclosure agreement],' she says, once more giggling. "I was so f—ing excited. Marvel emailing me!"



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Someday, but not yet

Foxing's Josh Coll talks sadness, art and impermanence.



MATTHEW DINARO
@MetroPhilly
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Whether you call it post-rock or emo, Foxing's orchestral sense of melancholy is unmistakable. Personal stories of sadness, regret and trauma comprise much of the St. Louis band's lyrics. On their latest record, "Dealer," they explore such difficult subjects as Catholic guilt ("The Magdalene") and bassist and co-songwriter Josh Coll's service in Afghanistan ("Indica"). But the band's compositions, swaying from whispers to grand crescendos, also convey the life-affirming aspects

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of painful experiences. We talked with Coll about Foxing's approach to music and living as a rock band.

I think we're often taught to avoid sadness, or too quick to label as "depression" what might be a natural process of grief. And maybe it comes out easier through art like the kind Foxing makes. Do you connect with that idea?
I feel like our culture

doesn't know how to handle sadness — it still can be viewed as a weakness for people, and I think that's really disheartening. I've felt like a lot of the stuff we deal with in our music is a little bit therapeutic or cathartic. Sometimes I think we'll talk about the things we talk about so that, in our day-to-day lives, we're able to not have that weigh so heavy on us. A lot of people that meet us

have commented on how light-hearted we can be, and that's interesting to me.

Your stuff is often so personal, but lot of bands can be more like fiction writers. What draws you to autobiography?

Everybody has a different way of writing — I'll look at certain bands and really wish that I could from more of an outside perspective. I

just don't think it's a strong suit for us. When [lead singer] Conor [Murphy] and I are writing, we find the best results from looking inward.

In your bio, you write, "Foxing is a band. Someday Foxing won't be a band." Is that just a little joke, or are you saying something deeper about how we're all going to die?

When I wrote that, it was a little more

tongue-in-cheek, but when we started the band, we kind of had a statement amongst ourselves: If you're putting yourself into a project, something that you care about, there's no reason for half measures. Be 100 percent proud of everything that you put out into the world, because your time as being relevant to the world is extremely fleeting. That carries over into everything we do.



There's an art to sadness, Foxing explains. MITCH WOJCIK

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A pint and a song

things to do

It takes more than Guinness and shepherd's pie to make an Irish pub. And, of course, there can be no craic without good live music — here's where to find it.

EVA KIS

The 11th Street Bar 510 E 11th St., East Village

"Charming" and "rustic" are no longer words that apply to much of the East Village, but this cozy dive has it all. The only food is what you order in, but the drink specials actually live up to the phrase "happy hour" with \$2 off all drinks until 9 p.m. every night. Local musicians rotate through a small space in the back of the bar — or sometimes just gather around any available table — almost every night of the week. The genres vary, but Sundays are always reserved for traditional music.

The Wicked Monk 9510 Third Ave., Bay Ridge

The mural of angels bringing down beer from heaven is your first sign that this bar takes drinking culture just a little more seriously than most pubs. Much of the gothic cathedral interior came from an actual monastery in Ireland, with the bar backlit by a row of stained glass windows so it feels (appropriately) like approaching the altar to receive Communion — except instead of a wafer, the menu is packed with Irish favorites. Traditional music begins at 5 p.m. on Sundays, though the calendar is always packed with live acts.

Landmark Tavern 626 11th Ave., Hell's Kitchen

Usually when an old space gets an update, the charm that drew regulars there for so long gets wiped away along with the accumulated dust. Not so with the Landmark, which has been serving Irish fare since 1868. Its 2005 renovation turned it into a refined destination for Irish fare, with a lively bar in front and a white-tablecloth dining room to savor its authentic food. On Monday nights from 8 p.m.-11 p.m., if you know the songs you're welcome to join in with the band playing Irish classics.

Paddy Reilly's Music Bar 519 Second Ave., Kips Bay

Named for a renown Irish balladeer, this bar is about music even more than it's about the perfect pint of Guinness (though it serves an especially smooth one). Now on its third decade, Paddy Reilly's shows the wear of its nightly concerts, whether it's Irish jig punk, Gaelic rock, American bluegrass or whatever the musicians drawn to its open mic nights (Wednesdays and Saturdays) want to bring to it.

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

Listings

FOOD



PROVIDED

Choice Eats

March 11, 6 p.m.-10 p.m.
Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 W. 18th St.
\$70, Choiceeats.villagevoice.com

This Friday, the Village Voice brings together its favorite restaurants from all five boroughs for the ninth annual Choice Eats. Sample savory and sweet dishes from dozens of participants (Brooklyn Bread Lab, Swine, Veselka, Queens Comfort, etc.) while sipping complimentary beer, wine and spirits.

MOVIES

Movie Night: "The Aristocats"

March 10, 7 p.m.
Koneko Cat Cafe, 26 Clinton St.
\$30, Konekonymc.com

Cuddle up with one of the adoptable kitties at Koneko, the only one of the city's growing number of cat cafes with a bar, for movie night. Tonight's feature is the 1970 Disney classic "The Aristocats," and your ticket includes popcorn and a beverage of your choice (beer, wine, coffee or tea). EVA KIS

BATTLEBOTS

FIRST Robotics Competition

March 11-13
Javits Center, 655 W. 34th St.
Free, NYCfirst.org

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ARTS

Asia Week NY Open House Weekend

March 12-13, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Multiple locations
Free, Asiaweeknyc.com

This showcase of Asian cultures spans the city's museums, galleries and auction houses from March 10-19. If investing in historic and contemporary Asian art is not in your budget, you can still ogle the goods during Open House Weekend, when some venues will be open to the public.

FOOD

Pizza-Making Class

March 13, 6-8 p.m.
Pizza Beach LES, 167 Orchard St.
\$60, Pizzabeachclub.com

Sure, it's hard to throw a rock without hitting some delicious pizza in NYC. But it's good to have moves of your own. Every Saturday at Pizza Beach LES, starting this weekend, you can learn to make a perfect hand-crafted pizza — and there are free wine and snacks during the class. T. MICHELLE MURPHY

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The city within the capital

Washington is more than just a collection of grand monuments and federal buildings.

Fodor's | ravel

The best way to get to know Washington, D.C., is to take a bipartisan approach. At the city's downtown core are grand tributes to American history and government that create an aura of power and diplomacy, and you can see most of them on a stroll around the Mall. There are also the Smithsonian museums and federal government buildings to tour, but don't forget that this is a city where people live, work and play — there's a side of D.C. that thrives beyond the marble columns and museum galleries. Add these top experiences to your list and you'll cross the aisle between essential visitor sights and hotspots that locals love.

Tidal Basin

A serene reservoir just south of the National Mall, the Tidal Basin is one of the most photographed spots in the city. The inlet is surrounded by some of its top



Tidal Basin ALL PHOTOS FODOR'S

monuments: the Jefferson Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. A walking path encircles the water, and when it's warm out you can rent a paddleboat and putz around the pond.

Cherry Blossom Festival

Every spring, the cherry trees around Washington blanket the city with a blizzard of little pink and white flowers. The city goes nuts for the blooms — you'll find cherry blossoms in cocktails and cupcakes, and in events throughout the two-week-long Cherry Blossom Festival. Many of the original trees (which were a gift from Japan in the early 1900s) stand around the Tidal Basin, but if crowds aren't your thing, you can still enjoy the flowers. Get to the Tidal Basin before the sun rises

for a little more breathing room (and some incredible photo ops as the sky lightens), or head out to the National Arboretum for a less hectic and equally scenic stroll.

National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden

Sure, the sculptures here are nice — you'll find works by Calder and Lichtenstein. But what locals love most about this nook next to the National Gallery of Art is what happens around the sculptures. On summer Fridays, the lawn fills with a buzzing after-work crowd for Jazz in the Garden. Come early, claim a spot of grass and toast the end of the workweek with some ensemble jazz and sangria.

14th and U streets

A focal point of the District's dining and nightlife



White House

scene, 14th and U streets have undergone massive revitalization in recent years. U Street, which was formerly known as Black Broadway, was the heart of early 20th century African-American culture in D.C. You can still see some of the icons from that era at places like the Lincoln Theatre. But the corridor, and 14th Street, which began as an offshoot of U but has blown up into its own entity, is better known now for its trendy restaurant-bar concepts, like Le Diplomate, Bar Pilar and Barcelona. If you want a night out in Washington, this is the place for it.

Historic hotels

D.C. is a city rich with history and scandals, and its grande-dame hotels have plenty of stories to tell. The most notorious hotel in American history, the Watergate, is reopening after a major restoration. A few miles away, the Mayflower was the site of former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's infamous

affair. Other hotels are steeped in history of a less sordid nature. Just blocks from the White House, the Hay Adams and Willard Intercontinental hotels have hosted everyone from Mark Twain to Abe Lincoln to Martin Luther King Jr. (who wrote his "I have a dream" speech in a room at the Willard). If you can't afford the hefty price tag of these spots, take a spin through the gilded lobbies or settle in for a drink at their classic bars.

Union Market and Eastern Market

D.C.'s market power couple (or are they frenemies?) set a high bar for discerning shoppers. Eastern Market is a little better known and more historic. Built in 1871, the indoor-outdoor market hall is surrounded by a colorful neighborhood of the same name. Many of the vendors here exist specifically for the market and sell a homey assortment of food and crafts. Union Market, which

burst back onto the scene recently after years of decline, is an emporium of high-end artisan brands and pop-ups, featuring everything from craft homegoods to gourmet coffee.

Shaw

A decade ago, few visitors found themselves in this corner of Washington. Now it's the city's obsession. The residential neighborhood east of Logan Circle is seeing a development boom, with bars, restaurants and boutiques moving in. Beer drinkers have plenty to cheer about: Dacha beer garden and Right Proper Brewing Company keep hops fans hydrated. Foodies are flocking to spots like Mockingbird Hill, Southern Efficiency and Declaration. And everyone's keeping their eyes on retail-residential spaces that are bolstering the area's new boutique lifestyle vibe.

Renwick Gallery

The "photography encouraged" signs are a good clue that this is not your average art gallery. The branch of the Smithsonian is a block from the White House and showcases American craft and decorative arts. But don't expect to see a

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lot of china plates and furniture. The programming here is innovative and pushes boundaries, from beer events to exhibits that have the Instagram crowd wearing out their hashtags.

One of Washington's ritziest enclaves, Georgetown marries old-world charm with upscale dining and shopping. You'll find high-end chain stores like Brooks Brothers and Zara

along with classic D.C. eateries like Clyde's and "best restaurants" list-toppers like Fiola Mare. The historic C&O Canal starts here and makes for a shady place to stroll. Side streets leading up to Georgetown University's campus are paved with cobblestones and wind along well-preserved townhouses that shelter senators and dignitaries.

The seat of legislative

power for the United States anchors one end of the National Mall with a soaring dome, one of the tallest structures in the city. Most visits begin at the snazzy Capitol Visitor Center, where you can book a tour to see the building's Rotunda, Crypt and National Statuary Hall. You can also book a tour through your member of Congress; these representatives can also give you passes to watch a session of the Senate or House in action.

If you were to give Washington a signature animal, the giant panda would win the job. The National Zoo, which is part of the Smithsonian Institution, is home to four beloved pandas (including a newborn that had Washingtonians on “panda watch” awaiting the birth). There are, of course, other animals to visit here as well, from elephants to lions to Amazonian frogs and monkeys. Not only is the zoo easy to get to by subway, it's free for all ages.

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Giants correct their defense in a flash

The G-Men went wild on Wednesday, landing several big-name defensive players.

TONY WILLIAMS
@TBone8
sports@metro.us

The Giants have a bunch of holes to fill — and a bunch of cash to throw at free agents — and at first it seemed like they'd swing and miss on all. But the nature of the very fluid free agency period proved to be beneficial for Big Blue.

Wednesday marked the official new calendar year in the NFL, which means teams could sign and re-sign players. The first order of business was the re-signing of defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul to a one-year deal worth up to \$10.5 million, meaning the former Pro Bowler is betting on himself this upcoming season with hopes he can hit a big payday next offseason.

Pierre-Paul's re-upping wasn't the end-all for Big Blue in fixing its pass-rushing dilemma, but it was a start. The end, however, could be the inking of former Miami Dolphins defensive end Olivier Vernon, who was signed to a five-year, \$85 million deal, including \$52.5 million guaranteed. It's the second-highest total for a defender in the NFL — even higher



Olivier Vernon gives the Giants' defensive line an added dimension. GETTY IMAGES

than that of Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt. The deal was so rich that the Jaguars bowed out, despite entering the frenzy with a record \$81 million in cap space.

But the splurging was a necessary evil for general manager Jerry Reese, as the Giants originally lost out on a handful of their primary targets, without even getting an official visit from many. Big names

like Mario Williams, Malik Jackson, Bruce Irvin, and Charles Johnson were scratched off the list by early Wednesday.

Williams (two years, \$17 million — including incentives that can push the deal to \$20 million), Jackson (six years, \$90 million), Irvin (\$37 million over four years), and Johnson (one year, \$3 million to remain in Carolina) were all on the Giants'

wish list, but none are headed this way.

Aside from Vernon, Reese was able to rebound nicely by stealing Damon Harrison from the neighboring Jets.

Of the remaining interior defensive linemen, Harrison was the crown jewel, as he'll be the perfect sidekick to Johnathan Hankins. Harrison, who inked a four-year, \$46.25 million deal, is primarily

a two-down nose tackle with little pass rushing ability. But paired with the recovering Hankins — whose torn pectoral should be fully recovered by training camp — Big Blue will have a great one-two tandem in the middle to alleviate pressure on the linebackers.

Reese had to do something to fix a defense that was anemic in all phases — points allowed (30th),

sacks (30th), stopping the run (24th), and stopping the pass (last, and second worst in league history) — as well as ranked dead last in total defense.

The defensive line signings should help a defense that only tallied 23 sacks last season. But what can also aid a pass rush is having guys who can help a defense get coverage sacks.

Big Blue helped that cause when they signed former Rams cornerback Janoris Jenkins to a five-year, \$62.5 million deal. It was a rare deep-pocketed maneuver by Reese — but a necessary one. The signing will likely mean the end of the Prince Amukamara era, as he was too inconsistent and injury prone during his tenure. Jenkins could be a great complement for Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie.

Jenkins' full deal includes \$29 million guaranteed, and will pay him \$40 million over the first three years. The contract will be the second-highest deal for a cornerback in the league — only behind the New York Jets' Darrelle Revis, who shares the same agency, Schwartz and Feinsod. The secondary was scorched last season, which made the Jenkins signing necessary. But if the pass rush can't get to quarterbacks, Jenkins will be just another guy.

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Jets land top RB Forte

The former Bear will give the Jets' offense a whole new look.



Jets fans were likely on the verge of a mini mutiny early on Wednesday, as their backfield woes were on full display considering the team is at an arm's distance from quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick and they lost top running back Chris Ivory to free agency.

The Fitzpatrick saga will play itself out, rather slowly, since there doesn't seem to be an insatiable market for the veteran journeyman who is looking for one last big payday.

The quarterback situation may be dicey, but the running back situation took just one day to be resolved by general manager Mike Maccagnan, as he filled the void by reaching an



Matt Forte. GETTY IMAGES

agreement with former Chicago Bears running back Matt Forte.

Ivory had a career year with the Jets in 2015, and his loss didn't appear to immediately bode well for the Jets' prospective play-off chances in 2016. The bruising back got \$10 million fully guaranteed on his five-year, \$32 million deal with the Jacksonville Jaguars — including another \$3 million in attainable incentives. That was

far too rich for the Jets.

Forte, who will be 30 years old by the start of the season, is more accomplished and when healthy is an elite player. He's had seven seasons with 1,400 yards from scrimmage since entering the league in 2008 and has 8,602 career rushing yards. There's only been two Jets to amass the same amount from scrimmage in that span, former running back Thomas Jones and current wideout Brandon Marshall.

The former Bear may have had a down season in 2015, compared to his previous campaigns, but with 1,287 total yards and seven total touchdowns in 13 games, it's still a steal for the Jets.

Wednesday wasn't all roses for Gang Green, however, as they had one of its own stolen away, nose tackle Damon Harrison. The burly defensive lineman was signed to a four-year, \$46.25 million by the Jets' in-house rival the Giants.

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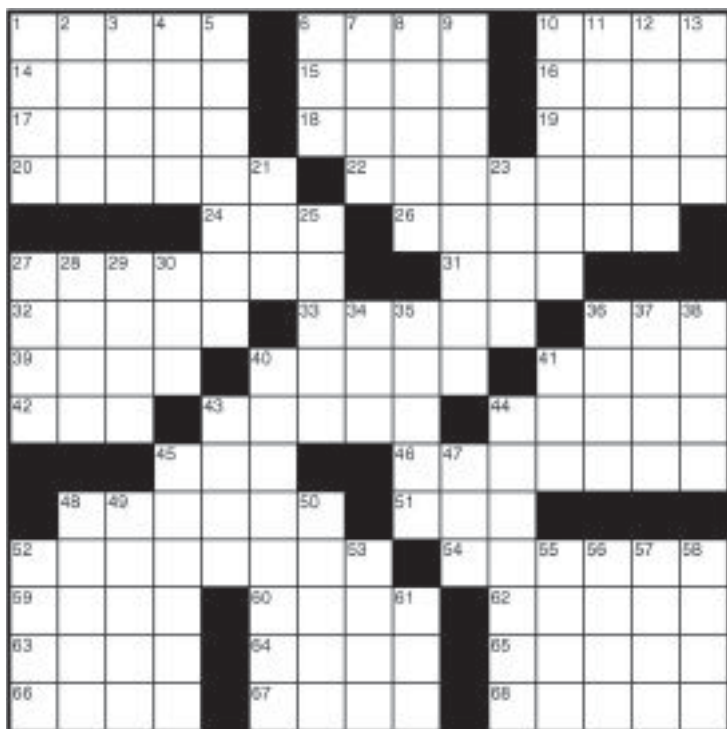
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- 6 Strauss of jeans
- 10 Den habitue
- 14 Man in a mask
- 15 Pizzeria need
- 16 Jazzy Fitzgerald
- 17 UFO pilot
- 18 Five, to Pierre
- 19 Shades
- 20 Adjusts, as a timer
- 22 Botched (2 wds.)
- 24 Harry's successor
- 26 Birdseed
- 27 Trunk item (2 wds.)
- 31 Eliminate
- 32 Where to celebrate Tet
- 33 More than asked
- 36 Dry goods meas.
- 39 Spark coil outputs
- 40 Notions
- 41 Crooked
- 42 Mao -- -tung
- 43 Skunk's trademark
- 44 Cuzco founder
- 45 Sporty truck
- 46 In the limelight (2 wds.)
- 48 Cut in half
- 51 Outback jumper
- 52 Side by side
- 54 Played loudly
- 59 007
- 60 Fair-hiring org.



- 62 Town near Madrid
- 63 Huff
- 64 Be grouchy
- 65 Barely warm
- 66 Pancho Villa's coin
- 67 Rookie
- 68 Slalom runs

Down

- 1 Industry magnate
- 2 Cameo, maybe
- 3 Orchid-like flower
- 4 Canada tribe
- 5 Heyerdahl's raft (2 wds.)
- 6 Rapper Tone --
- 7 Harmful
- 8 Snake toxin

- 9 Questions
- 10 Saw

- 11 Give the slip
- 12 Walrus hunter
- 13 Say hoarsely
- 21 Tackle a slope
- 23 Lost traction
- 25 Chopin opus
- 27 -- does it!
- 28 Bireme movers
- 29 Almost never
- 30 Part of LAX
- 34 Toon pooch
- 35 Swamp critter
- 36 Youth org.
- 37 Wearisome task
- 38 Nostalgic song ending
- 40 Beer holder, maybe (2 wds.)
- 41 Formic acid producer
- 43 Proofer's word
- 44 Pinpoint
- 45 Familiar with (2 wds.)
- 47 San Francisco hill
- 48 Fess Parker played him
- 49 -- fatuus
- 50 Bopper lead-in
- 52 Cough syrup meas.
- 53 Jungle warning
- 55 St. crossers
- 56 Turbulent currents
- 57 Journalist -- Ducommun
- 58 Family men
- 61 Navy noncom

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easy

		7				1	8	9
			6	7			3	5
8								6
				5	7			8
1	3						7	2
7			2	6				
5								1
3	2			9	4			
6	4	8				2		

hard

			9			1		5
4		5	8				2	9
					7		6	
		7			5			3
		1	2	3	4	8		
3			6			5		
	1		3					
8	5				6	2		4
2		6			8			

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Aries Don't get anxious when you can get moving and be productive. Once you get started, everything will fall into place. Consistency and creativity will bring excellent results.



Taurus Be innovative, but don't go over your budget or ignore rules. The help you offer others must be carefully monitored so that you are not taken advantage of.



Gemini Your common sense must be maintained, regardless of what others do. Be honest about what you want and set guidelines to avoid being taken for granted.



Cancer Keep the peace, offer assistance and take care of your responsibilities. Once you complete what's expected of you, make sure you enjoy downtime with someone you love.



Leo You can make gains if you prepare and present your case with finesse. A change of scenery will encourage an encounter with someone offering valuable information.



Virgo Express your feelings openly and ask questions that will help you understand what others want to see unfold. Your practical attitude will attract someone who can be beneficial to you.



Libra Check out an investment that can help your financial situation. Cutting overhead expenses will give you greater long-term freedom to enjoy life to its fullest.



Scorpio Onlookers will admire you for your innovative way of doing things in a cost-efficient and convenient manner. You'll be considered a trendsetter amongst your peers.



Sagittarius Don't run from situations that make you uncomfortable. Matters will escalate if you don't address a problem. Clear the air so that you can enjoy the benefits of eliminating stress.



Capricorn Keep your thoughts to yourself until you are sure you have an audience that will understand what you are trying to say. Arguing with stubborn people will be a waste of time.



Aquarius A past experience will help you make a decision. Your disciplined attitude will encourage you to be your best. Love will promote a closer bond with someone special.



Pisces A chance to use your talents will also result in an upswing in your earning ability. Reawaken an old friendship with someone you haven't talked to in quite a while. **EUGENIA LAST**



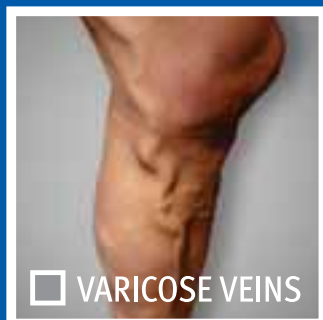
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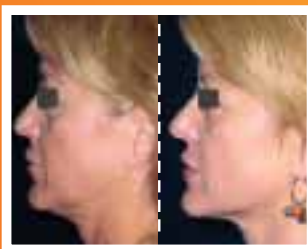
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